

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the above-captioned patent application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A semiconductor integrated circuit, comprising:

~~one or more~~ a plurality of function blocks;

a nonvolatile memory unit which stores therein coded license information indicative of a usable/unusable status separately for each of the plurality of function blocks; and

a decoder circuit which decodes the license information stored in said nonvolatile memory unit, and makes ~~one~~ each of the function blocks separately either usable or unusable depending on the decoded license information.

Claim 2. (Original) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a status unit that has at least part of the decoded license information stored therein in such a manner as to be accessible from an exterior of said semiconductor integrated circuit.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a calendar circuit which indicates a current date and time, wherein said decoder circuit makes said ~~[[one of the]]~~ plurality of function blocks usable in response to a finding that the current date and time indicated by the calendar circuit is

within a valid period indicated by the decoded license information, and makes said [[one of the]] plurality of function blocks unusable in response to a finding that the current date and time indicated by the calendar circuit is after a valid period indicated by the decoded license information.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a counter circuit that counts a number indicative of how many times said [[one of the]] plurality of function blocks are used, wherein said decoder circuit makes said [[one of the]] plurality of function blocks usable in response to a finding that the number counted by said counter circuit is within a number of valid use indicated by the decoded license information, and makes said [[one of the]] plurality of function blocks unusable in response to a finding that the number counted by said counter circuit exceeds the number of valid use indicated by the decoded license information.

Claim 5. (Original) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a license encoder circuit which encodes the number counted by said counter circuit, wherein the number encoded by said license encoder circuit is stored in said nonvolatile memory unit as updated license information.

Claim 6. (Original) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein coding and decoding of the license information is encrypting and decrypting that prevent the license information in said nonvolatile memory unit from being illegally rewritten.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said decoder circuit includes:

a decoder which decodes the license information stored in said nonvolatile memory unit;

a license register which stores therein the decoded license information decoded by said decoder; and

a control circuit which makes said [[one of the]] plurality of function blocks either usable or unusable depending on the information stored in said license register.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said control circuit controls a chip enable signal of said [[one of the]] plurality of function blocks in order to make said [[one of the]] plurality of function blocks either usable or unusable.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said control circuit controls a clock signal of said [[one of the]] plurality of function blocks in order to make said [[one of the]] plurality of function blocks either usable or unusable.

Claim 10. (Original) The semiconductor integrated circuit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nonvolatile memory unit receives the coded license information from an

external LSI tester, and no external pin is provided for a purpose of receiving the coded license information.